

National Heritage Areas Alliance Update

ANHA

Flood of 2008:

All 37 Counties of Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area Declared Presidential Disaster Area

By Aaron Steinman, *Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area*

It takes a special spirit to withstand the whims of the weather, to rise above each hail storm or rainy season, and to not only survive, but to thrive as well. The people of the Midwest are widely recognized for the character and stamina that helped them shape the land while, at the same time, enduring the harsh extremes of weather on the prairie. The spring of 2008 tested this endurance and determination once again.

Just weeks after an F-5 tornado devastated portions of Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Mother Nature continued its offensive with torrential rainfall inundating already swollen rivers and streams. As waters converged, rivers poured out of their banks and over levees, affecting countless communities during the waters slow trek across the Heritage Area to the Mississippi River. This is the first time in recorded memory that water levels of this magnitude have been documented, breaking historic records and reaching the '500-Year' floodplain.

As floodwaters began to recede, the true extent of the devastation became apparent. The Federal Government declared all 37 counties within the 20,000 square-mile Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area a Presidential Disaster Area. Current estimates are that the flood impacted one-third of the 106 Silos & Smokestacks partner sites, as well as over 3 million acres of productive cropland.

With citizens expending all of their efforts on sandbagging, volunteers

could not remove the artifacts at The Ice House Museum in Cedar Falls before four to five feet of water engulfed the site. Exhibits at the museum are a total loss, with staff now beginning the redesign process. As cleaning efforts



Aerial of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids (bottom of photo, just right of center) African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa, Cedar Rapids (bottom left of photo)

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above: The Ice House museum in the floodwaters

RICK CHASE / Courier Staff Photographer



African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa.

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continue, museum officials believe most of the artifacts are salvageable. If water had not reached inside the building, it is likely that the immense pressure outside would have destroyed the historic site, built on the banks of the Cedar River in 1921.

Jeff J. Kurtz, Executive Director, Cedar Falls Historical Society

commented, "We have been amazed at the outpouring of support by the

community...volunteer labor, tools and equipment, financial resources, and many kind words and well wishers. We would never have accomplished what we did without them!"

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Legislative Update

Introduced on June 26, **S. 3213 the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008 (Bingaman, D-NM)**, contains many National Heritage Area specific components, including: Program legislation, designation of 9 new areas, authorization of 2 new studies and technical corrections to 5 existing areas.

News from the Heritage Areas

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and Partners Host First Annual Coal Miner's Heritage Festival

The first annual Coal Miner's Heritage Festival took place in Lansford, PA on July 13th at the No. 9 Coal Mine and



Museum. "This new annual event is planned to be a unique celebration of Pennsylvania's rich coal mining heritage, traditions, customs,

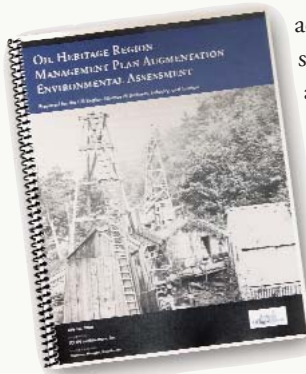
ethnic foods, music, history, and landscapes" said Dale Freudenberger, No. 9 Secretary and Festival Chairman. Tours of the 177 year old mine, the oldest deep mine in the world, were available throughout the day as were visits to the No. 9 Coal Mining Museum, a unique site housed in a 1920's miner's wash shanty and home to a large collection of artifacts including tools, photographs and mining memorabilia. The first 200 visitors to purchase tickets for the mine tour also received half price admission, a benefit sponsored by the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor as part of its 20th Anniversary "Partnership Days" celebration. For more information on the event, contact Dale Freudenberger at dale@delawareandlehigh.org. The website for No. 9 Mine and Museum is www.no9mine.com.

Northern Rio Grande Names Interim Executive Director, Holds Fundraiser in Taos

The Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area in New Mexico recently named Jose Villa as interim Executive Director. Villa has a long history of community outreach and organizing in the region and in California. The Heritage Area also recently moved to a new office space in Mission Convento in the city of Espanola, a beautiful replica of the original mission at Ohkay Owingeh – a Tewa word for "place of the strong people." In addition, Northern Rio Grande NHA held a fund raiser in Taos, NM. 150 local residents enjoyed a good old-fashioned hoedown with square dancing in Spanish and English, stories and good food.

Secretary of the Interior Signs Oil Region Management Plan

In late May, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne signed the Oil Region National Heritage Area (NHA) Management Plan. This is a significant step for the region, located in Venango and eastern Crawford Counties, Pennsylvania. Randy Seitz, President of the Oil Region Alliance, the Heritage Area coordinating



entity, announced the achievement by saying, "We appreciate the public participation and encouragement provided by so many people and groups during the planning period; and we

look forward to tackling the fascinating projects and priorities described in the plan documents from now through the year 2015. Designated in 2004 by Public Law 108-447, the Oil Region NHA highlights northwest Pennsylvania's distinctive legacy as the birthplace of the petroleum industry and its continuing role in protecting the cultural resources associated with this heritage. The complete plan documents are available on line at www.oilheritage.com. Individuals desiring an Executive Summary and/or CD of the complete plan may request complimentary materials by contacting Mrs. Marilyn Black, Vice-President for Heritage Development, 677-3152, Extension 105, mblack@oilregion.org.

Cruisin' in the MotorCities

Just about any day of the year, somewhere in this country, clusters of car enthusiasts are taking to the streets in souped-up, painted and polished conveyances known as "cruisers." The street cruiser's focus, aside from "see and be seen," is not a race or a destination, but rather the ride itself. It is not uncommon to see a gleaming, 500-horsepower, hand-built street rod that has required years of painstaking effort alongside a 4-door sedan that someone couldn't bear to part with after dear old Aunt Sophie passed away. Both are welcome in the cruising world, equals in an open-minded domain.

Perhaps nowhere is the cruising passion more in evidence than the Woodward Dream Cruise,

which runs for 16 miles from the Detroit suburb of Ferndale to Pontiac. The cruise's namesake, Woodward Avenue, was once the main thoroughfare between the Motor City and its northern neighbors and from the 50s to the early 70s was the scene of much mingling of people and their cars. The Woodward Dream Cruise has grown dramatically from its beginning and now attracts more than 40,000 muscle cars, street rods, custom, collector cars, and other special interest vehicles, as well as an estimated 1.7 million spectators.

The Woodward Dream Cruise is arguably the biggest day-long automotive event in the world. The idea of all kinds of cars and all kinds of people getting together to celebrate their common passion for things automotive is universal in its appeal and is evidenced by an exciting new event in 2008 – Cruisin' MotorCities. Cruisin' MotorCities is an auto-tourism festival that gets underway the week prior to the Cruise and features car shows, Model T ride, tours, boat rides, kids games and activities, and food and music in downtown Detroit. . . car shows, music, food and exhibits at the new AutoFair at the Michigan State Fairgrounds. . . and, a Flint-to-the-Fairgrounds motorcycle ride.

Partnerships are a key element in creating



MotorCities activities and programs that benefit the entire region. Cruisin'

MotorCities is being organized by MotorCities National

Heritage Area in conjunction with a coalition of business and community organizations operating within the greater Detroit area, including: Ilitch Holdings; the Detroit News; Motor City Casino and Hotel; One D; Detroit Renaissance; Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau; Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce; North America International Automobile Show; Detroit Festival of Speed and Style; and, The Henry Ford. Cruisin' MotorCities runs August 8th to August 15th. For more information go to www.motorcities.org.

Schuylkill River Heritage Area Sponsors 10th Annual Sojourn



Paddlers participate in the 10th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area held its 10th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn from June 7-13, taking a record 250 participants on a 110-mile, seven-day guided canoe/kayak tour. The sojourn was a great success this year. Not only did it have record participation—up from 195 registrants in 2007—it also featured unique programming at evening campsites and lunch stops. The SRHA partnered with the Philadelphia-based American Philosophical Society Museum to create programming tied to the museums exhibit titled *UNDAUNTED: Five American Explorers, 1760-2007*. Sojourners paddling 14-18 miles per day became field explorers of the river. They kept journals in handcrafted books, collected and pressed plant specimens daily, and sampled the river water at every major stop.

Since its inception in 1999, the sojourn has attracted more than 1,500 participants and garnered support annually from over 70 public and private partners. It is a fun and educational event that draws attention to the river as a valuable natural, recreational, historic and economic resource. Paddlers not only discover unfamiliar places, but, through entertaining evening and lunch programs, they learn about the river environment and its importance as a source of drinking water for over one million people.

Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area Presents Seeing Pittsburgh

In celebration of Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area worked with 44 Pittsburghers from eleven neighborhoods to produce the Seeing Pittsburgh project. Asked to use cameras to show what defines their communities, these residents

captured the sights and stories of their daily lives. The results form the basis of the Seeing Pittsburgh exhibit and accompanying book. In addition to working with a wide variety of neighborhoods, the project sought a diverse group of residents to serve as volunteer photographers. "We made a real attempt to find different types of Pittsburghers to participate - children and senior citizens, those who have been in the community for their entire lives and those who have recently arrived," says Ron Baraff, Director of Museum Collections and Archives. In addition to the images themselves, the exhibit also features video clips of the photographers talking about their communities. The project will be on display at the Bost Building in Homestead, PA from July 9, 2008, to January 31, 2009. A generous grant from the



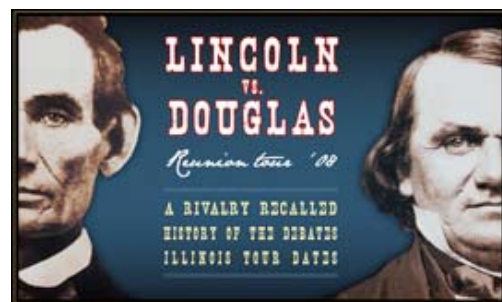
Allegheny Regional Asset District's Renaissance Grant program made Seeing Pittsburgh possible. Additional support provided by the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the National Park Service was also important. For further information, contact Ronald Baraff at (412) 464-4020 Ext. 21 or rbaraff@riversofsteel.com

Rahall Company Store Opens at the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine

Since opening for underground tours over 40 years ago, the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine has introduced thousands of visitors and local school children to the important story of how coal built West Virginia and helped industrialize the United States. The City of Beckley has been committed to partnering with the Coal Heritage Trail and National Coal Heritage Area to preserve history and make coal themed heritage tourism a success for southern West Virginia. Beginning in 1961 with an authentic underground tour of the Phillips family drift-mine, the Exhibition Mine complex has grown to include a coal camp house, miner's shanty, coal camp church, superintendent's house and a coal camp school house. The centerpiece of the master plan for development at the mine complex, the 15,000 square foot visitor and interpretive center, themed as a company store opened to the public on June 30, 2008.

This new center tells the coal heritage story in a thoughtful and compelling manner and complements the re-created coal camp community. In addition to the Coal Heritage Trail and National Coal Heritage Area, others contributing funds to the project included the C.W. Benedum Foundation, the Beckley Area Foundation, the Carter Family Foundation, the City of Beckley, the West Virginia Division of Highways, and the Federal Highways Administration. The strong and continued support of Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II was critical to the success of the project resulting in the dedication of the facility as the Rahall Company Store.

Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Facilitates Program of Lincoln Douglas Debates



The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, a partnership of 30 significant and promotable Lincoln Legacy sites across central Illinois, is celebrating the historic Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 through a variety of events. The Coalition, which is the local coordinating for the newly designated Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, has been working with local communities for over three years to both organize and raise funds for the ambitious initiative. A truly grassroots effort, there will be eight separate 3-day debate celebrations in different central Illinois towns. Actors portraying Lincoln and Douglas will re-enact the historic gatherings and seats for many of the performances have sold out in advance. The events are also significant because they will raise awareness and create momentum for the great Lincoln Bicentennial projects coming up next year. For more information, visit www.lookingforlincoln.com.

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Southeast Regional Office Welcomes Two New SCA Interns to Work with National Heritage Areas

For the next year, two Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns will be in Atlanta to support the National Heritage Areas (NHA) program in the Southeast Region. Marlene "Marley" Riley and Jeff Reoch will organize trainings, develop educational materials, perform site visits and provide support to communities interested in pursuing NHA designation. In addition, Marley and Jeff will also lend a hand in the review of NHA feasibility studies and management plans.



Marley Riley is originally from the Scranton, PA area. She attended the University of Tennessee and was an elected officer of one of the largest student groups on campus, Students Promoting Environmental Action in Knoxville (SPEAK). She has also volunteered for many environmental organizations over the past several years including participating in another SCA internship for the United States Forest Service at Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon. NHAs in the Southeast Region can contact Marley at (404) 562-3715 x 519 or Marlene_Riley@partner.nps.gov. Jeff Reoch is a local resident of northern Idaho and attended the University of Montana. He is excited to be working with the National Park Service in the Southeast Region as a Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern for a year. NHAs in the Southeast Region should feel free to contact Jeff at (404) 562-3175 x 536 or JeffReoch.nps@gmail.com.

Conferences, Workshops and Events

2009 National Main Streets Conference

The 2009 National Main Streets Conference will be in Chicago from March 1-4, 2009. The conference will focus on the technology that Main Street programs need to succeed and advance to the next level. The Main Street Center welcomes sessions that showcase innovative solutions to common challenges, highlight ways to improve the operation of revitalization programs, and simply share great ideas. To learn more, visit www.nthp.org.

ICOMOS to Hold 16th General Assembly in Quebec

From September 29 to October 4th, ICOMOS – the International Council on Monuments and Sites – will hold its 16th annual General Assembly in historic Quebec City, Canada. The theme of the gathering is "The Spirit of the Place between the Intangible and the Intangible." For



more information, visit

<http://www.international.icomos.org/home.htm>

Assistance/Awards

NPS offers Rivers & Trails Programs Assistance (RTCA)

RTCA provides technical assistance to locally-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects. The project applicant may be a state or local agency, tribe, non-profit organization, or citizens' group. Federal agencies, including the National Park Service, may apply only in collaboration with a non-federal partner. RTCA does not provide financial assistance to support project implementation. The deadline for applications is August 1, 2008. Visit www.nps.gov for more information.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Offers Multiple Grant Opportunities

The EPA offers a wide-range of grants and funding opportunities in areas such as brownfields rehabilitation, environmental education and water quality assessment. Environmental justice projects and watershed work are also considered. For more information visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/information.htm>.



For more information on heritage areas, please visit our websites.

The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 18th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov
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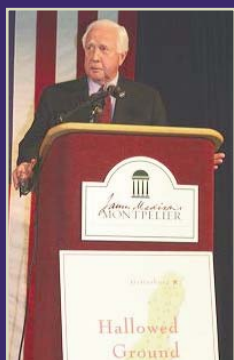


News from the Heritage Areas

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Journey Through Hallowed Ground Hosts Historic Annual Partnership Meeting

This spring has proven to be a very exciting time for the region between Gettysburg and



David McCullough speaks at the JHTG Partnership Annual Meeting

Monticello—now the Journey Through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) National Heritage Area. C-SPAN cameras were rolling at James Madison's Montpelier in early May as National Geographic photographer Kenneth Garrett and Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough took the stage at the Partnership's Annual

Meeting. Book TV was on site to capture the inspirational words of Mr. McCullough.

Mr. McCullough spoke about the critical importance of the JTHG region. "On we go...and God bless you for what you are doing with this marvelous achievement...This is an example for the country and it can change the way we are teaching our children; to right a situation that needs correcting as soon as possible. This is one of the greatest schools, one of the greatest seminars, one of the greatest graduate schools of American history anywhere in the country...THIS is a big idea. Congratulations!"

Another highlight of the day was a presentation given by National Geographic photographer Kenneth Garrett on his stunning photos taken for the new book *Journey Through Hallowed Ground: Birthplace of the American Ideal*. "We have to be creative and find ways to continue to build economic engines and celebrate the social fabric of the communities," said Garrett. The book, written by renowned author Andrew Cockburn with a foreword by Pulitzer Prize-winner Geraldine Brooks spotlights the places and personalities within the corridor, revealing the personal stories of each generation who worked to create, sustain and nurture our uniquely American ideals. The book is available now through the Partnership's website at www.hallowedground.org.

Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area

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At Ushers Ferry Historic Village in Cedar Rapids, floodwaters submerged 33 of the 36 buildings in the open-air living history museum. As of now, three buildings are



completely destroyed, with the log cabin being washed downstream. The future of Ushers Ferry is uncertain. Though there is hope to rebuild the village in some capacity, much has been lost that cannot be replaced.

While the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) was able to remove two semi-trailer loads of artifacts before floodwaters entered the museum, the interior sustained extensive damage. As quickly as the floodwaters

receded, so began the recovery efforts with a parking lot full of bins and clotheslines for drying the artifacts that endured the floodwaters. The museum has seen extensive support in its recovery efforts, both locally and from as far as Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The mills of the Heritage Area are no stranger to floods, though 2008 has proven especially tough for these remnants of Iowa's history. The Wapsipinicon Mill in Independence, Motor Mill in Elkader and Potters Mill in Bellevue all endured two floods this season, with the second

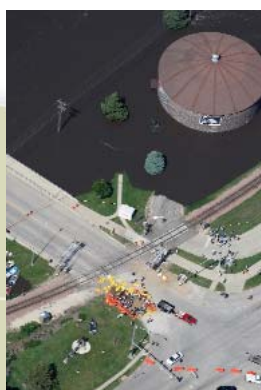


National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids

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flood reaching levels never before seen. At Motor Mill, floodwaters washed away the grassy area behind the mill, exposing a previously undiscovered rock wall.

"The people and communities of the Heritage Area have a long history of overcoming whatever obstacles Mother Nature puts in their way," commented Silos and Smokestacks President Don Short. "I truly believe the region will come back stronger than it was before."



The Ice House Museum from the air
MATTHEW PUTNEY / Courier Photo Editor

As summer begins, so does the cleanup and rebuilding efforts. To help in the recovery and rebuilding efforts for the region, the Heritage Area has established a disaster relief fund:

Checks May Be Sent To:

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area
SSNHA Save Our History Fund
PO Box 2845
Waterloo, IA 50704-2845

SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA